

leadership, FMU has truly experienced a renaissance and metamorphosis. Dr. Smith implemented a major capital improvement program, including the dedication of the Lou Rawls Center for the Performing Arts, and he achieved an important educational milestone in expanding its offering of academic programs and guiding the college to University status.

I know that everyone in our community thanks Dr. Smith for a job well done. We wish him and his wife, Sadie, our very best for continued success and much happiness in the future.

A SALUTE TO THE WILSON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL GIRL'S BASKETBALL TEAM, TENNESSEE'S 2005–2006 CLASS AAA STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an extraordinary group of young women from Wilson Central High School in Lebanon, Tennessee—the 2005–2006 Class AAA Girl's Basketball State Champions.

Of the 5 years Wilson Central High School has been in existence, the Lady Wildcats have been to three State championship tournaments. On March 11, 2006, they brought home the State title after defeating Shelbyville Central High School 44–38. The State championship is the school's first State title in any sport. The team finished a remarkable season with a 32–7 overall record. I am extremely proud of these outstanding young athletes for this great accomplishment.

These student-athletes should be honored not only for the feat of winning the Tennessee State Girl's Basketball Championship, but they should also be recognized for excelling in the classroom and maintaining a team grade point average of 3.61. This is certainly no easy task and I am proud of the way they have represented their school and hometown both on and off the basketball court.

On behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the following members of the Wilson Central High School girl's basketball team: freshmen Kelsey McGee, Lauren Wasson, Jasmine Hassell, sophomores Heather Simonis, Kristyn Clark, Sydney Ketcher, Rebecca Stewart, Cameryn Calhoun, Shelley Stewart and Rachel Stewart, juniors Tierney Jenkins, Lauren Farmer, Sara Williams and especially to the graduating seniors Elizabeth Martin, Breonna Brown, and Jenny Hall. I commend Nikki Eversole, Brittany Farmer, Courtney Chapman, Kayla White, Melanie Jones and Audriana Saddler for their hard work and contributions to the team.

I also salute their coaches—Head Coach Bud Brandon, his father and Assistant Coach Campbell Brandon, and Assistant Coaches Jay Holladay and Scott Moore for their commitment, expertise and leadership. Campbell Brandon coached the Lebanon High School Blue Devils to their State championship victory 35 years ago, in 1971. Today, he shares his son's pride for another team of amazing young women—the 2006 Wilson Central Lady Wildcats.

I applaud the tremendous achievements of these exceptional young players and wish them well in their endeavors on the basketball court and beyond.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Chairman, during the vote on amendments and final passage for H.R. 2829, the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act, I was away from the Capitol on business in my home State of Georgia.

On the Chabot amendment to H.R. 2829 (Vote #34), I would have voted “yes.”

On the Hooley amendment to H.R. 2829 (Vote #35), I would have voted “yes.”

On the Paul amendment to H.R. 2829 (Vote #36), I would have voted “yes.”

On the Rehberg amendment to H.R. 2829 (Vote #37), I would have voted “yes.”

On final passage, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2829, to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy Act (Vote #38).

MARCH 30, 2006 INAUGURATION OF PORTIA SIMPSON MILLER PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce in to the RECORD my sincerest congratulations and best wishes for Portia Simpson Miller, Jamaica's newly-installed President of the People's National Party and newly-elected Prime Minister, on her imminent inauguration on March 30, 2006.

Celebrants of Women's History Month in Jamaica and elsewhere had much to rejoice about as Simpson Miller made history on February 25th, when she was elected the first woman president of the 68-year old People's National Party (PNP). With this, the stage was set for more history: she will become the first woman Prime Minister of the great nation of Jamaica.

Simpson Miller knows full well the numerous challenges in store as she embarks on this political journey as Prime Minister. She is no stranger to the political arena—where partisan and national expectations are high—and realizes that there is much to be done to address the many problems of the Jamaican society. The much anticipated question about the direction in which Simpson Miller intends to take the country will begin to unfold in a couple of days when she is sworn in as Prime Minister and appoints her Cabinet to implement her priorities.

Yesterday, in Ocho Rios, St. Ann Jamaica, Simpson Miller shed a single tear as she accepted the People's National Party's symbolic baton of leadership from P.J. Patterson, the outgoing Prime Minister. Simpson Miller stressed the need for unity, and urged the party to have its election machinery oiled and ready by June this year. Simpson Miller

praised Patterson, who has led the party for 14 years, for helping her political career, and she paid tribute to their friendship even when they competed against each other for the presidency fourteen years ago.

In her acceptance speech yesterday before ruling party's National Executive Council (NEC) she calmly stated “I come to you today with no malice, no malice whatsoever, because I come today as your party leader. I am determined to lead a united party. I am determined to build bridges that will lead to unity of purpose and accomplishment of our mission. I am determined to devote my energy and time to the healing process because it is only in unity that we can have strength, and it is only in strength that we can be assured of the success of our programs and victory for the fifth term”.

Mr. Speaker, with change come challenges. There are always skeptics and detractors lurking on the horizon waiting to pounce at the first signs of failure. I am confident that Portia Simpson Miller will rise to lead the great Jamaican nation into the future with optimism and hope.

SIKH ORGANIZATIONS UNITE FOR KHALISTAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the Indian newspaper The Telegraph ran a story on March 21 reporting that two Sikh organizations in Punjab, Dal Khalsa, under the leadership of Satnam Singh, and the Shiromani Khalsa Dal under the leadership of Daljit Singh Bittu, are uniting to promote a sovereign, independent Khalistan. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Sikhs declared Khalistan independent on October 7, 1987. Ever since then, Sikhs have been struggling against a massive Indian force of over 500,000 troops sent to suppress their drive for freedom.

The announcement from Dal Khalsa and the Shiromani Khalsa Dal was met by shouts of “Khalistan Zindabad,” meaning “Long live Khalistan.” Now the Chief Minister of Punjab has ordered the police to place the leaders of both organizations under watch. Let me make this clear, Mr. Speaker. They are under police watch in “the world's largest democracy” for peaceful political activities designed to achieve freedom for their people.

These arrests come in short order after the recent arrests of Sikh activists Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan and Kanwarpal Singh Dhami for speeches they made supporting Khalistan. Dr. Chohan committed the additional crime of flying the Khalistani flag from his residence. Groups of Sikhs were arrested last year in January and June for hoisting the Khalistani flag and making speeches in support of sovereignty for Khalistan. Dal Khalsa organized those events. It has organized numerous events in support of a sovereign Khalistan in Punjab, and the support has been shown to be large. I guess this scares the Indian government.

Mr. Speaker, these actions are unacceptable in any country. We use our influence to put pressure on totalitarian regimes for just these kinds of tactics. They are even more unacceptable when the country using them

claims to be democratic. This does not resemble any kind of democracy I know about.

Mr. Speaker, we must take a stand for freedom in South Asia, as we are doing elsewhere in the world. The time has come to cut off our aid and trade with India and until basic human rights for all people are respected there. In addition, we should put the Congress officially on record in support of free and fair plebiscites in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Nagaland, and all the other minority nations seeking their freedom from India. It is time for America to show its active support for freedom, stability, dignity, and human rights.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has published a very good release on the statement by Dal Khalsa and the Shiromani Khalsa Dal. I would like to add it to the RECORD now for the information of my colleagues.

SIKHS ARRESTED IN INDIA FOR SPEAKING FOR KHALISTAN

WASHINGTON, DC, MARCH 15, 2006.—Sardar Kanwarpal Singh Dhami, Chairman of Dal Khalsa, and Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan were arrested earlier this month for speaking out for an independent Khalistan. They were charged with sedition. These arrests follow the arrests of Sikh leaders last year belonging to Dal Khalsa both in January and June for hoisting the flag of Khalistan. Kanwarpal Singh Dhami was arrested after saying that the Sikh Panth could not live under someone else's rule. He was accused of "... sedition, promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony, imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration and statements conducing to public mischief." The government charged that he promoted separatist and 'terrorist' movements.

Dal Khalsa has sponsored numerous marches and conferences in Punjab in support of a free Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. It was the organizer of the two events at which Sikhs were arrested for making speeches and raising the Khalistani flag. It was announced today that they will be joining forces with the Shiromani Khalsa Dal, headed by Sardar Daljit Singh Bittu, in support of a free Khalistan. The Punjab and Haryana High Court ruled that it is legal to ask for freedom for Khalistan, yet the Indian government continues to treat it as a crime. They do not even live by their own law.

Dr. Chohan said on India's Zee TV that Khalistan will be free by 2007. He has also been flying the Khalistani flag and that of his party, the Khalsa Raj Party, outside his office. According to the book Chakravatyuh: Web of Indian Secularism (page 183), Dr. Chohan worked with Major General Jaswant Singh Bhullar, Professor Manjit Singh Sidhu, Didar Singh Bains, and others "to stop Sikhs living abroad" from supporting freedom for Khalistan and connived with the Indian government for the June 1984 attack on the Golden Temple.

"It is evident that the Indian government is scared of the increasing amount of peaceful activism in Punjab in support of Khalistan," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which is leading the Sikh struggle for independence. "The time of Khalistan's liberation is near. India will fall apart soon," he said. "We condemn the arrests of Sardar Dhami and Dr. Chohan but remind the Sikh Nation that it must work only with leaders who are honest, sincere, and committed to the liberation of Khalistan." Dr. Aulakh noted that in New York in 2000, former Member of Parliament Simranjit Singh Mann had called for the Council of Khalistan's office to be closed.

"Sikhs must be very careful about the leaders they follow," Dr. Aulakh said. "This office has worked unwaveringly for a sovereign Khalistan for almost 20 years," he noted.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. "We only hope that the breakup will be peaceful," said Dr. Aulakh.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. No one has been brought to justice for the Khalra kidnapping and murder. Yet according to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial, some since 1984!

Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper and get justice," said Dr. Aulakh. "India should act like a democracy and allow a plebiscite on independence for Khalistan and all the nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

TRIBUTE TO WALTER JEBE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Walter G. Jebe, a longtime community leader, businessman and historian, who died of leukemia in the Veterans Hospital in Palo Alto on Feb. 25th at the age of 81. The unofficial mayor of San Francisco's Excelsior district, Mr. Jebe was a champion of small business and for his neighborhood and an outspoken advocate and historian. He has left an indelible mark on our city.

Mr. Jebe was born in 1924, raised in the Excelsior District, graduated from Balboa High School, studied photography at Samuel Gompers trade school and was drafted into the Army. After serving our Nation, Mr. Jebe returned to San Francisco and opened Jebe's Cameras on Mission Street. He was a self-taught businessman, and neighboring businesses took bets on how long he would last. He stayed in business for 45 years.

All politics was local to Mr. Jebe, who was a member of the Excelsior Business Association, the Geneva Excelsior Lions Club, the Boy Scouts, and other organizations he felt would improve the Excelsior. He also served on a

number of San Francisco city commissions, including the Delinquency Prevention Commission, the Library Commission and the Arts Commission. He helped secure a branch of the public library for the Excelsior, and last year wrote a book about the history of the neighborhood.

Walter Jebe was a respected authority on San Francisco history and taught courses throughout San Francisco. He collected vast quantities of photos and memorabilia on the San Francisco Mid Winter Fair of 1894, the Pan Pacific Exhibition of 1915, the 1939 World's Fair and the 1906 Earthquake and Fire.

As a prominent member of the San Francisco History Association, he headed the task force that negotiated a deal for the Federal Government to turn over the Old Mint at Fifth and Mission streets to a nonprofit organization to become a history museum. The Old Mint is a San Francisco architectural gem that survived the 1906 Earthquake and Fire and played a vital role in rebuilding the city. A member of the Old Mint Advisory Council, Mr. Jebe was responsible for overseeing the restoration project.

With great appreciation for his fine work and service to our city, I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife of 53 years, Vivian Jebe, his son Walter and daughter Vivian, and thank them, for sharing their magnificent husband and father with us. He was a true San Francisco treasure and we are diminished by his passing.

PREPARE NOW DON'T WAIT FOR A HURRICANE STRIKE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon the United States Government to assist the islands of the Caribbean with preparation for the impending 2006 hurricane season and to enter in the RECORD an editorial from the New York CaribNews entitled "Prepare Now Don't Wait for a Hurricane Strike" which addresses the need to take timely action now before a natural disaster occurs.

The impact and wreckage still linger in Grenada from 2004 and 2005. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Ivan and Emily we realized that decades of progress was wiped away and insurmountable damage was done to 90 per cent of the country's housing stock and watersheds. Similar devastation exists throughout the islands of the Caribbean who received direct force of the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes. It is crucial that steps be taken to prepare for these tragedies long before they occur. We must have programs in place to respond immediately and not wait until the disaster strikes.

WITH 2006 HURRICANE SEASON AROUND THE CORNER, A LOUD CARIBBEAN APPEAL: PREPARE NOW DON'T WAIT FOR A HURRICANE STRIKE

MARCH 21, 2006.—Among Caribbean leaders, Dr. Keith Mitchell, Grenada's Prime Minister, is undoubtedly the best person, not only to talk about the importance of preparing a country's response system before a natural disaster occurs. He is also well qualified to be the region's spokesman on rebuilding a nation after devastation caused by a hurricane.